Illinois' Health Information Exchange
Better Care Through Technology

The basics of
Health Information Technology

2012

What is Health Information Technology?

Health IT, or e-health, is increasingly viewed as the most promising tool for improving the overall quality, safety and efficiency of the health delivery system

Health IT encompasses an array of technologies to store, share and analyze health information

Components of Health IT

Health IT is organized around patient care at the point of care

- Certified electronic health information technologies using computers

- Exchanged through a secure network following strict HIPAA privacy guidelines

- Inaccessible patient paper charts being converted to electronic patient health records

Electronic Health Records

- An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is built to store health information, such as history of diseases and medications

- EHR's allow providers to track clinical measures

- Enable providers to provide patient's with an electronic copy of their health record

- Capable of exchanging key clinical information with providers of care and patients, such as problem lists, allergies, medications lists and diagnostic test results

E-Prescribing

- Recognized as solution to improved patient safety and reducing prescription errors

- Electronic prescribing, or e-prescribing, is when a provider sends a prescription electronically directly to a pharmacy in a secure way.

- A clearly typed, easily read prescription a pharmacy can fill right away.

- Convenient for patients – prescriptions waiting to be picked up.
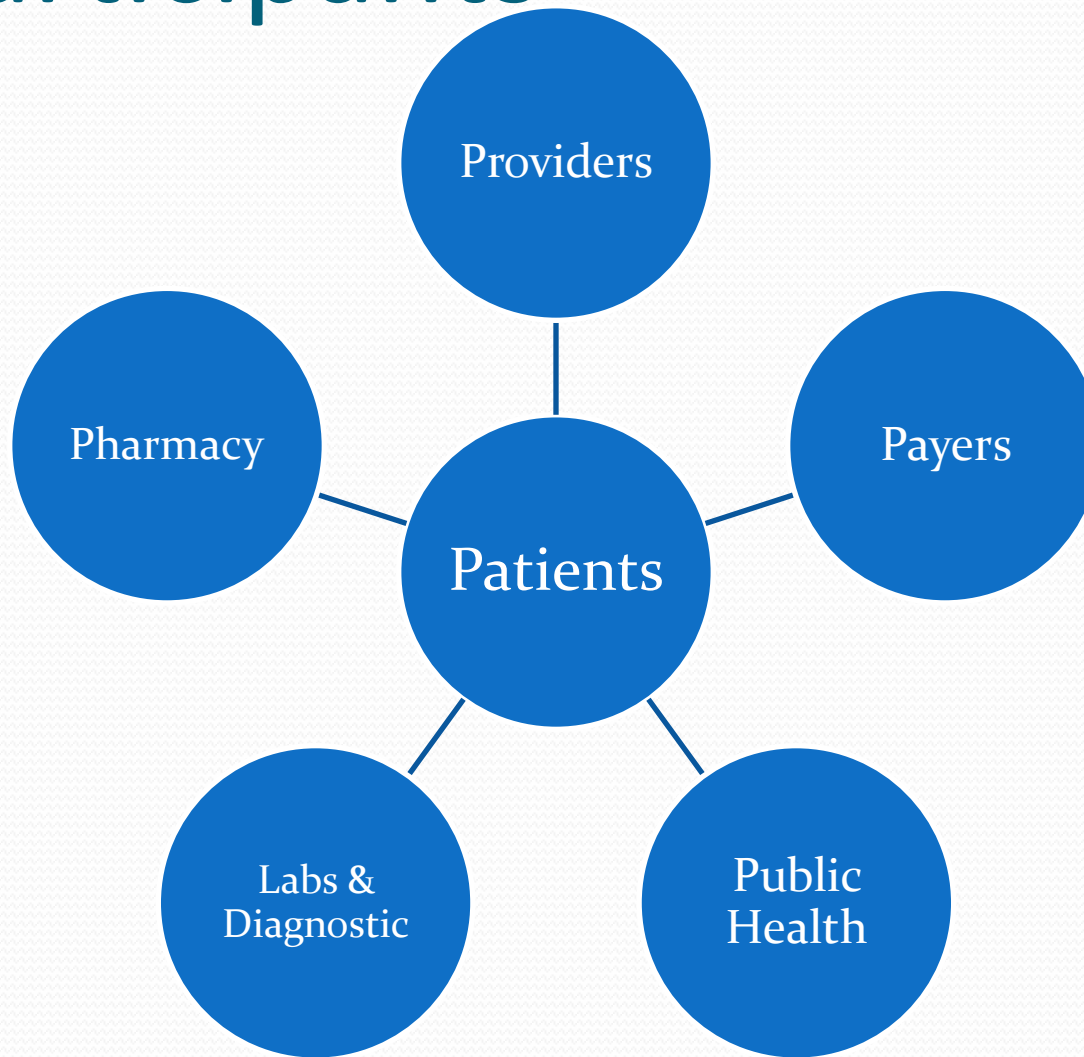
Benefits of Electronic vs. Paper

- Fewer medication errors
- Fewer duplicate tests
- Increased safety and security
- Better emergency care
- Patient empowerment
- Patient convenience and savings

Health Information Exchange

The term "health information exchange" (HIE) actually encompasses two related concepts:

- *Verb:* The electronic sharing of health-related information among organizations
- *Noun:* An organization that provides services to enable the electronic sharing of health-related information

HIE Participants

Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)

- Created by Executive Order to direct and coordinate State Health IT and Health Information Exchange (HIE) initiatives

- Administers Illinois' HIE Cooperative Agreement Program, coordinates with other HITECH programs, other federal grant programs.

- Supports and coordinates with other State efforts to transform and improve health care to maximize impact and efficiency.

- Working with the Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority to build the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE), which will be a statewide, secure electronic network for sharing clinical and administrative data among health care providers in Illinois.

Health Information Exchange Goals

The goals of health information exchange are to:

- Improve health care outcomes of all Americans

- Promote the widespread adoption and Meaningful Use of electronic health records

- Provide a framework for secure exchange of clinical data among providers nationwide

Illinois Health Information Exchange Benefits

When fully functional the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) will benefit Illinois residents by:

- Increasing the safety of patient care and reduce medical errors
- Improving care coordination and outcomes
- Engaging patients and families
- Improving administrative efficiency, thereby lowering the delivery costs of healthcare
- Improve population health and reduce health disparities

Consumer/Patient Centered Care

- Gives patients the tools to be a more active participant in their own healthcare
- Increases safe and secure, 2-way communication between patients and providers
- Patient controls access to their information
- Reduces paperwork every time patient visits a new provider

Privacy and Security

Top priority whether stored on paper or electronically:

- Electronic Health Records are protected with passwords, encryption, and other technical safeguards to make sure that only the right people have access to information.

- In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set forth standards for protecting the privacy and security of certain health information.

Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Programs

- For providers who see a high volume of Medicare and Medicaid patients.

- Payments to providers who demonstrate Meaningful Use of electronic health records

- Both programs began in 2011, Medicare ends 2016, Medicaid ends 2021

- To learn more about the Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs visit:

- Medicare: http://www.cms.gov

- Medicaid: http://www.hfs.illinois.gov

Meaningful Use

Certified Electronic Health Records being used in a standardized way to improve healthcare quality through a confidential and secure information exchange to bring about healthcare that is:

- Patient-Centered
- Evidence based
- Prevention Oriented
- Efficient
- Equitable

ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging Solution

- First service offering of the Illinois Health Information Exchange

- Protects sensitive health data sent between providers in compliance with HIPAA

- Allows providers to quickly achieve clinical exchange for Stage 1 Meaningful Use

- Enables licensed Illinois health care providers to send health information via the internet in a secure and encrypted format to recipients with an ILHIE Direct address

- It's simple, fast and offered at no cost through December 2012.

www.ilhiedirect.net

Regional Extension Centers (RECs)

Need Help?

The Regional Extension Centers provide technical assistance in support of Illinois providers implementing and becoming "meaningful users" of electronic health records

- IL-HITREC (For Providers Statewide) www.ilhitrec.org/
- CHITREC (For Providers in Chicago) www.chitrec.org/

For More Information

- Illinois Health Information Exchange Website

  - www.hie.illinois.gov

- US Health and Human Services Health Information Technology Website

  - www.healthit.hhs.gov